

## HOW WILL THE DATA BE USED

*The HMRFSS will provide essential data to the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, the DAR and the NMFS. Resource managers will use the data to improve stock assessments, study species life cycles, and develop recommendations for management and allocation decisions. The data can also be used in ways not directly related to fisheries management.*

- *They can contribute to damage assessments for oil spills, pollution, and other accidents that degrade recreational fisheries.*
- *They can contribute to the planning of habitat conservation and restoration strategies important to fishery resources.*



## YOUR PARTICIPATION

*As a recreational or subsistence fisher, you can play an important role in Hawaiian fisheries management. Your cooperation with HMRFSS field and telephone interviewers will help ensure that marine angling in Hawaii remains a productive and rewarding experience. For more information about the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Program, visit our website at [www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational](http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational). Good Luck and Great Fishing!!*



Photo by A. Burnell

### Jeff Muir

DAR Project Manager  
Division of Aquatic Resources,  
Department of Land & Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dar/surveys>

### Dave Van Vorhees

MRFSS Program Manager  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service, F/ST1, RM 12455  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

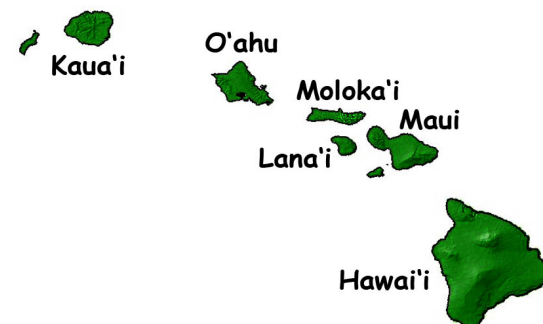
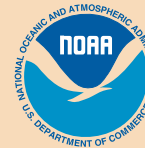
**Steve Kaneko**, Data Manager

Brian Esteban, Nate Nam, **Richard Beebe**, Larry Spalding, John Burke, Gary Boteilho, John Dill, Jason Chang, Patrick Conley, Crystal Schoonover, Ernest Akoni, Imiola Akutagawa

Photos courtesy of Hawaii Fishing News and  
Ocean Sports Productions  
Brochure created by: Mike Nelson DAR  
Brochure modified by: Jeff Muir DAR

# Hawaii

## Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (HMRFSS)



[www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational/](http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational/)

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Marine recreational and subsistence fishing, or angling, is an important activity to many residents of Hawaii. People fish for food and recreation, and "fishing tourism" is also an important part of Hawaii's economy. However, like many popular human activities, angling can have significant impacts on the resource. Fishery managers must understand the activities of Hawaii's recreational and subsistence fishers if they are to ensure quality marine fishing for future generations.

Although the activity of a single recreational fisher is not likely to be significant, the combined activity of all Hawaii fishers represents a tremendous amount of fishing effort. Understanding the biological impact and social importance of recreational and subsistence fishing is a vital part of the management process because it helps decision-makers develop wise policies.



To properly manage fishery resources, fishery managers must gather reliable statistical data. These data include the number, length and weight of fish harvested, the composition of the catch, the numbers of people fishing, and the total number of trips that they make.



Of equal importance are social and economic information about the participants themselves.

By knowing your age, gender, annual income, and amount of time and money spent angling, managers can develop innovative programs to manage the resource while minimizing the impact of regulations. Although these questions are sometimes of a personal nature, they help managers understand how policy decisions affect anglers, the recreational fishing industry, and coastal communities.

Beginning July 2001, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) began collecting marine recreational fishery data in Hawaii, administered through the Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS). Continual data collection has occurred since then, and compiled by NMFS. Data will be collected through the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS), which has been conducted in the continental U.S. since 1979. DAR staff will collect catch data at various sites around the state. Access sites are distributed among shoreline, private boats, boat ramps, marinas, and charter boats. To estimate the total number of fishing trips and anglers, telephone interviews of Hawaiian households and charter boat captains will be conducted by NMFS and DAR, respectively.

The DAR is providing staff and base level funding to support HMRFS sampling in Hawaii. Their experience and knowledge of local recreational fisheries will help to maximize the efficiency of the HMRFS in Hawaii. The NMFS will contribute funds to increase sample size and coverage as well as provide administrative experience and statistical support to DAR staff. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also contributes funds to this project that are collected from the Dingle-Johnson fund, which is designed to be used for recreational fishing projects.

From 2006 to June 2007, well-trained personnel will complete 3,000-4,000 field interviews and 13,200 telephone interviews of Hawaiian households.

The HMRFS project staff has doubled since 2002, currently with 12 surveyors, 1 data manager, and a project manager.

